

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 385 without my signature.

This bill would unnecessarily mandate a compensation survey be jointly conducted between the State and the bargaining unit that represents scientists. This is redundant of existing law which requires the State to survey prevailing wages in occupations comparable to those in state service. The bill is also redundant of provisions in the negotiated collective bargaining agreement with the unit in question.

If the State of California is to have good faith collective bargaining, then employee wages, hours, and terms and conditions must not be legislated. However, I value the dedication and work of the State's scientists, and I am concerned that salaries for this group may have fallen behind those of comparable workers. So, I am directing my Department of Personnel Administration to work together with the scientists during the next round of bargaining to ensure that survey results for this group are looked at seriously and that the State is moving in the direction of achieving fair and equitable compensation for the scientists.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger